

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

STATE OF OREGON, COUNTY OF JACKSON

IN THE MATTER OF DECLARING A LOCAL) ORDER NO. 178-21
STATE OF EMERGENCY WITHIN JACKSON)
COUNTY DUE TO A FORESEEABLE LACK OF)
ADEQUATE RESOURCES TO RESPOND TO)
BASIC NEEDS FOR HEALTH, SAFETY, AND)
EMERGENCY SERVICES)

WHEREAS, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has exhausted many providers of core public services including first responders, healthcare providers, educators and educational support staff, emergency service providers, and public safety providers; and

WHEREAS, the recent surge of COVID-19 cases, due to the Delta variant, has further strained the delivery of those public services and has filled regional hospitals with COVID-19 patients; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to address this new surge, the State of Oregon has attempted to further increase the percentage of Oregonians who are vaccinated against COVID-19 by imposing vaccination mandates for certain sectors including education, healthcare, emergency services, and State employees; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson County Board of Commissioners anticipates that Executive Order No. 21-29 mandating vaccinations for State executive branch employees, Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 333-019-1010 mandating vaccinations for healthcare providers and staff, and OAR 333-019-1030 mandating vaccinations for teachers and school staff will have a detrimental impact on the delivery of healthcare, education, public safety, and emergency services within Jackson County; and

WHEREAS, the vaccination mandates pursuant to Executive Order No. 21-29, OAR 333-019-1010, and OAR 333-019-1030 do not provide for compliance by people who have acquired antibodies through exposure to the COVID-19 virus and thus have “natural immunity,” and thus exacerbates the likely impact on the delivery of healthcare, education, public safety, and emergency services within Jackson County; and

WHEREAS, Oregon Revised Statute 401.309 and Section 244.15 of the Codified Ordinances of Jackson County authorize the Jackson County Board of County Commissioners to declare an emergency exists within the County and to prepare for and carry out any activity to prevent, minimize, respond to, or recover from such emergency.

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Now, therefore,

The Board of County Commissioners of Jackson County ORDERS:

1. A local state of emergency is declared to exist within Jackson County due to the immediately foreseeable lack of adequate resources to deliver basic health, safety, emergency, and educational services.
2. This local state of emergency is limited to the period of time during which the conditions described above remain in existence and may be terminated at any time by the Board of Commissioners.
3. The Board of Commissioners requests that Governor Brown and the State of Oregon immediately withdraw all vaccination mandates related to COVID-19 to prevent further exhaustion and departure of providers of core public services including first responders, healthcare providers, educators and educational support staff, emergency service providers, and public safety providers that are essential to the public health, safety, and welfare of people living, traveling through, and visiting Jackson County, Oregon.

DATED this 30th day of September, 2021, at Medford, Oregon.

JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

/s/ Rick Dyer

Rick Dyer, Chair

/s/ Dave Dotterrer

Dave Dotterrer, Commissioner

/s/ Colleen Roberts

Colleen Roberts, Commissioner

Due to the existing novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the need to promote physical distancing, the Jackson County Board of Commissioners is conducting meetings through electronic and telephonic means. On January 5, 2021, the Board of Commissioners approved Order No. 1-21 authorizing the use of their electronic signatures on Ordinances, Orders, and other documents. Following the motion and roll call vote, Commissioners Dyer, Dotterrer, and Roberts authorized the use of his/her electronic signature on this Board Order No. 178-21.